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RIHANNA ON RACHEL DOLEZAL

Her opinion of the NAACP official may surprise you. 16

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PHILADELPHIA BAR ASSOCIATION

Michael Shannon takes on Donald Trump. 17

ROCK BOTTOM

The Phillies have gone full circle. From 102 wins in 2011, the Phillies were the worst in baseball in 2015. 28-29

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POWERBALL WINNER

1 A 50-year-old Michigan grandmother won last week's $310.5 million Powerball jackpot. Julie Leach, from Three Rivers, Michigan, said that she planned to take the jackpot as a lump sum, which would amount to about $197.4 million. She said she planned to celebrate her "mind boggling" win with her family. REUTERS

MICHIGAN LOTTERY TWITTER

FLOOD DEATH TOLL RISES

2 Fourteen people have died amid historic rainfall in South Carolina, the state's governor said on Tuesday, as residents grappled with the damage wrought by flooding on their homes, roads and water supply. Predictions of sunny skies in coming days provided only small comfort, as more than 800 people remained in shelters after floodwaters forced them from their homes. Officials said more evacuations were likely as several rivers remained above flood stage and dams were being monitored for breaches. REUTERS

TWITTER SHOWS BEST

3 Twitter rolled out its much-anticipated "Project Lightning" on Tuesday, a feature that shows users the site's best tweets and content as curated by a Twitter team. The feature is one of a slate of projects under new CEO Jack Dorsey that aims to ramp up Twitter's waning user engagement and growth. REUTERS

PALESTINIANS AND ISRAELI FORCES CLASH

7 A Palestinian youth uses a slingshot to throw stones toward Israeli security forces (unseen) during clashes at the main entrance of the West Bank town of Bethlehem on Oct. 6, 2015, following the funeral of 13-year-old Palestinian Abdel Rahman Abdullah. The Israeli army shot dead the Palestinian youth during clashes at a refugee camp near Bethlehem on Oct. 5 as violence spiked in east Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank. GETTY IMAGES

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

NTSB PROBES LOST SHIP

4 A National Transportation Safety Board team headed for Jacksonville, Florida, where the El Faro departed from last week en route to San Juan, Puerto Rico. The ship disappeared in what maritime experts have called the worst cargo shipping disaster involving a U.S.-flagged vessel in more than 30 years. REUTERS

CHANGES TO TEXTBOOK

5 The publisher of a textbook criticized for a glaring error that glossed over the topic of slavery has offered stickers to schools that will cover up a caption describing African slaves as "workers," a spokeswoman said on Tuesday. A World Geography textbook by McGraw-Hill Education was published in Texas earlier this year and says in a caption about immigration that the Atlantic slave trade "brought millions of workers from Africa to the southern United States to work on agricultural plantations." REUTERS

VW UNDER PRESSURE

6 Europe's largest carmaker is under pressure to find those responsible for installing software in diesel engines to rig emissions tests, to say how affected vehicles will be fixed and to what extent it may also have cheated in Europe. It is the biggest business crisis in Volkswagen's 78-year history. REUTERS

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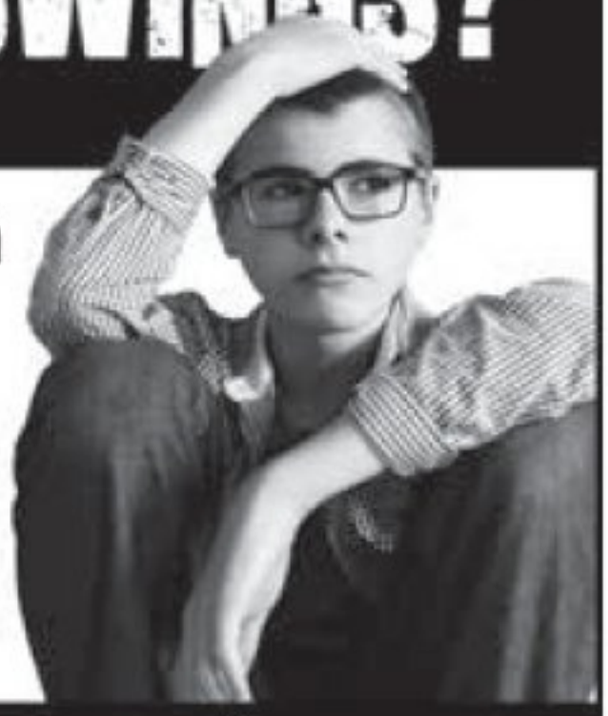

A bipolar disorder research study for children and teens ages 10-17 is enrolling now.

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Interview

Metro columnist wins award

Metro Philly columnist Ernest Owens was recognized Monday evening by Young Involved Philadelphia and the Forbes 30 Under 30 Summit for his contributions to Philadelphia through his writing and community service.

In an interview with Metro US, Owens talked about the award itself, diversity in the newsroom, and how he's been trying to make waves in Philly.

Tell us little about this award.
The award is called the Young Philly Leads award, which is basically an award that encompasses mostly young Philadelphians that are doing amazing things. What they did for the awards this year is they asked the general public, anyone in Philadelphia, to nominate someone in different sections. There were over 200 nominations for different people in different categories, and they picked the top three finalists. I was nominated for my work at Metro, being the youngest columnist in Philadelphia and for the type of work I've done advocacy-wise. I was surprised I won!

What did you think when you won?
For me [winning the award] was an opportunity to increase visibility for different topics: I'm black, I'm openly gay, I'm a millennial and I'm an in a media space that could use all of those identities. So I really take the responsibility seriously to be able to share those opinions, share that commentary whether it's through reporting, working with staff, or being on the ground. I take that responsibility to share those voices and give that voice in the news.

MATTHEW LEE

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Akhil Shah, right, founder of Chutney Chefs, packs a mail-order Indian food meal as cooks from 5ive Chefs look on. Below, vacuum-sealed ingredients are delivered to customers' doorsteps. PROVIDED

Indian food in the mail

A N.J. whiz kid's company sends you ingredients to cook.

SAM NEWHOUSE
@scnewhouse
sam.newhouse@metro.us

The idea for Chutney Chefs, a company created by 24-year-old Akhil Shah of Edison, N.J., was simple: how to get the quality Indian food that he and other American of indian descent enjoy at home?

"Cooking Indian food — it's not easy at all," Shah said, who said his mother cooks the food for him at home multiple times a week. "I thought, 'If people could make this food at home, it could be huge."

Shah partnered with the 5ive Chefs catering company to launch Chutney Chefs, which mails vacuum-sealed bags with ingredients for Indian food to customers in 11 states along the Eastern Seaboard.

The price is comparable to what you'd pay for standard takeout from your local Indian restaurant — about $12 an entree, plus $3 overnight-shipping — but the difference is how the food is cooked, Shah said.

"You go to an Indian restaurant, you feel so heavy after you're done. They use vegetable oil because it's so cheap," he said. "We use soybean oil. ... It's much lighter. We're really trying to make you feel like it's a homemade meal."

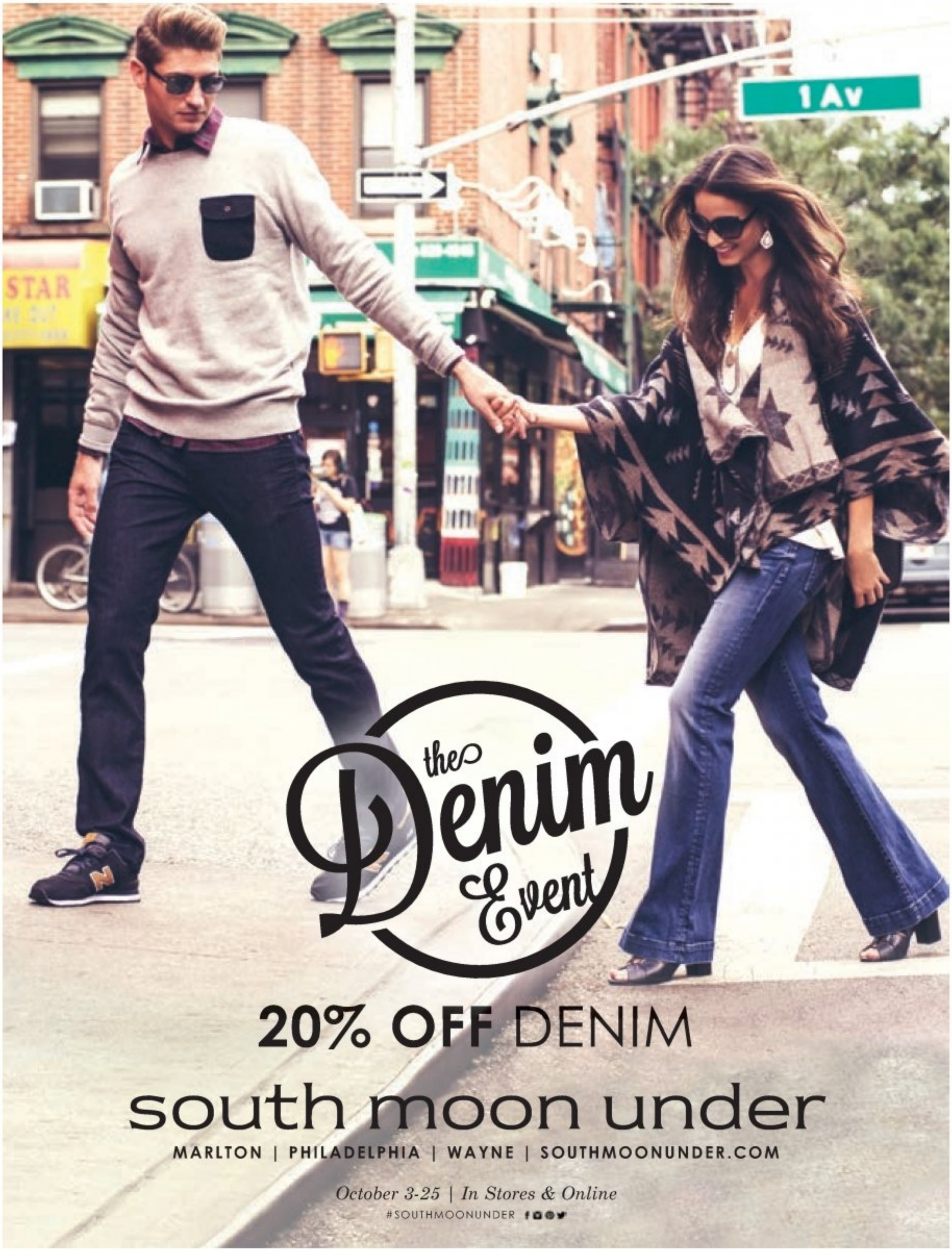
Taste test

It is odd to get vacuum-sealed bags of ingredients in the mail – a box of tiny bags with curry, chicken or tofu, and rice or roti, depending on your order. The portions are also a bit smaller than most Indian takeouts.

But after the 15 or so minutes of prep time, you've got food that tastes homemade and leaves you feeling good – not bloated, as typical Indian takeout tends to.

The curry was fresher and the spices had more flavor than any I had tasted in years of ordering Indian takeout. So maybe there is something to takeout in the mail after all.

"Our customer base is a little bit different. They're planning it at least one to two days in advance. They like to have their meals ready for the week."
Shah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Man with a gun prompts lockdown

Students said the incident sparked fears of an 'active shooter' situation.

SAM NEWHOUSE
@scnewhouse
sam.newhouse@metro.us

Police arrested a suspect and as of press-time were still searching for the gun allegedly used in an incident that prompted the lockdown of Community College of Philadelphia and the nearby Masterman School on Tuesday morning.

Students who were asked to remain inside Community College of Philadelphia (CCP) were being released by 12:30 p.m. as police lifted the secure perimeter around the school on Spring Garden but continued to search the school's buildings.

CCP student Andrew Sopko claimed he was walking down a hallway in the school's Winnet Student Life Building when he noticed a commotion — and saw the suspect rush past him holding a black handgun.

"It was the craziest, surrealest thing I've ever seen in my life," said Sopko, 24, of East Falls, who did not know the suspect personally.

Sopko described a "stampede" as the 20 or so students in the hall fled the building. He said he had no idea if he was witnessing an active shooter or a small one-on-one confrontation, as police have described the incident.

> *"It was a response that was instantaneous. ... I'm very proud of what I saw."*
> Sullivan

"When you have a lot of people in a small area, and a guy with a gun — who knows?" Sopko said. "Especially with everything that's been going on, it was too hard to tell."

He described the gun as a black, boxy Glock-like weapon.

CCP student Angela Saltzer, 21, of Northeast Philly, said she was in math class when she got a call that a man with a gun had been reported.

"It really scared me, it scared me really bad," Saltzer said. Her professor asked students to remain in the classroom with the lights off, which had begun at 9:45 a.m., until they were cleared to leave by police around 12:45 p.m.

"I was really scared, with the community college in Oregon getting shot up ... since there was a threat out yesterday,"

CCP went on lockdown Tuesday morning after reports of a man with a gun. Right, counterterrorism chief Joe Sullivan thanked officers with quickly finding and arresting the suspect. MATTHEW LEISTER

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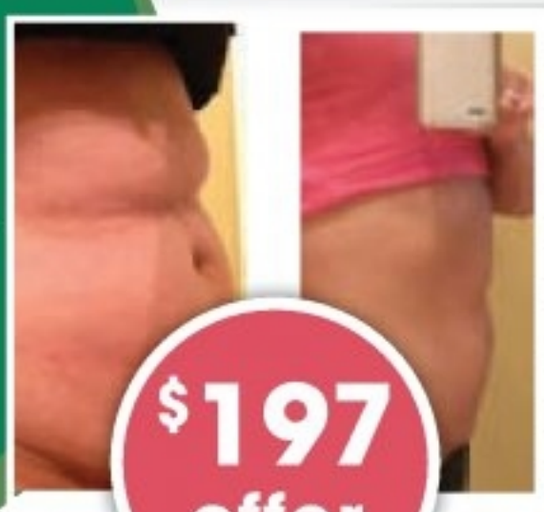

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at CCP, no injuries

she said. "I'm just glad to be out and be safe."

Details on the suspect are pending, but Police Commissioner Charles Ramsey described him as a black male, about 5'4," wearing gray pants, a blue shirt and a red hoodie.

The suspect got into an argument with another individual, who may have been a former student, on the street near the school, Ramsey said. The gunman then went into the Winnet Building after brandishing the gun.

No shots were fired but students were ordered to stay in their classrooms as police searched school buildings — eventually locating and arresting the suspect inside a classroom.

"These are two individuals that have a history," Ramsey said.

The lockdown came as universities in the Philadelphia area remained on edge after an online shooting threat Monday was revealed to be a hoax.

Police said Tuesday there was no connection between Tuesday's lockdown at the Community College of Philadelphia and the online threat.

"This doesn't look like it has anything to do with yesterday at all, anything to do with Oregon, anything to do with any of that," Ramsey said.

Chief Joe Sullivan of the counterterrorism unit said officers working with CCP police would search every building top to bottom so the school could open Wednesday without any further cause for concern.

He praised his officers' performance as the lockdown ended and said they were prepared for this type of incident regardless of the recent shooting or other threats.

"We live on edge. We don't go on edge," Sullivan said.

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Philly gets self-serve beer!

You can now pour your own brews at some Philly sports venues.

DAN KELLEY
@MetroPhilly
dan.kelley@metro.us

In New Jersey, they can't even pump their own gas.

But at two sports venues in South Philly, they're about to start letting you pour your own beer.

"Beer fountains" — they're officially called Draftserv machines, but the similarity to soda fountains seems apt — were quietly installed at the Wells Fargo Center last month. They are set to make their debut at Lincoln Financial Field this weekend.

To work them, customers buy a prepaid card and pour away. And yes, there's a cashier checking IDs and making sure the obscenely inebriated can't use them.

Domestic beer — that's Bud Light — is 41 cents an ounce. Premium brew — that's Goose Island and Stella Artois — is 64 cents an ounce.

Customers can pay for as much beer as they want, but the machine limits servings to 32 ounces. Max that out, and you'll have to wait eight minutes.

But you can buy half a beer if you want, said Justin Musciano, the concessions manager at the Wells Fargo Center for Aramark.

The cards are sold in $20 increments and are good throughout the season. So, for those who can't drink 50 ounces of beer (about three pints), there's always next time. The machine has a countdown clock that tells customer how many ounces they have left on their tab.

Musciano says the system, which is in about half a dozen other stadiums across the country, is about convenience.

The new beer vending machine. EVAN MACY

"If you are a guy and you want another beer, you've already paid for it. You're back in your seat before you know it."

Musciano

"If you are a guy and you want another beer, you've already paid for it. You're back in your seat before you know it," Musciano said.

The system promises to reduce spillage and waste. That's a big profit boost for concessionaires. How might it do that? you ask. When a bartender spills beer while pouring, the business pays. But when a customer pours his own beer, he ends up paying for what he spills.

BRIEF

Police investigate murder of transgender woman

Police are hunting for five men wanted in connection with the murder of a transgender woman early Tuesday.

Kiesha Jenkins, 22, was shot to death around 2:30 a.m. in North Philly.

A group of five or six men approached her after she was dropped off near 13th and Wingohocking, beat her and shot her twice, reports say.

Police are seeking information on the men, the driver and why Jenkins was in that area, far from her home. They are also looking for surveillance footage of the incident.

Anyone with information is being asked to call 215-686-TIPS or text a tip to PPDTIP (773847).

Kiesha Jenkins PROVIDED

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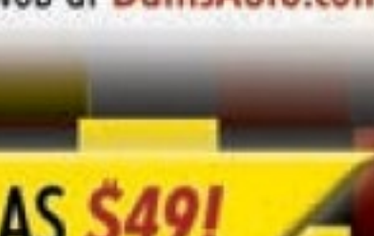

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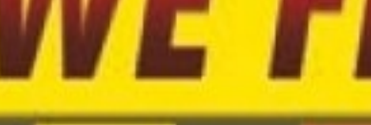

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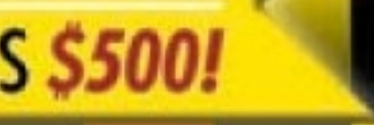

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State rep. Brian Sims speaks at a LOVE Park rally for hate-crime laws in 2014. He will run against U.S. rep. Chaka Fattah, below. CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Rep. Sims to oppose Fattah in election

The state rep. will oppose the embattled congressman.

DAN KELLEY
@MetroPhilly
dan.kelley@metro.us

State Rep. Brian Sims, the first openly gay member of the Pennsylvania General Assembly, has made it official: He's challenging Congressman Chaka Fattah in the Democratic primary.

Sims is the third, but arguably the highest-profile, candidate to come out against Fattah for the Democratic nomination. He joins Dan Muroff, a ward leader in Northwest Philadelphia, and Lower Merion Township Commissioner Brian Gordon in the race.

"No one will fight harder for justice in the eyes of the law and respect in the minds of our leaders," Sims said in a campaign video announcing his candidacy today.

Fattah was indicted in July on corruption and racketeering charges. His margins of victory are among the highest of any member of Congress — though that may be attributed to the high percentage of Democrats in the district, which spans the west and northwest portions of Philadelphia and parts of Montgomery County.

Fattah, who is serving his 11th term, has maintained his innocence. He has rejected calls for his resignation, but has stepped down from a leadership post on the House Appropriations Committee and vowed to run for re-election.

Fattah, the son of civil rights activists, served as a state representative and state senator before being elected to Congress in 1994. He made a failed run for mayor in 2007. That race — and the difficulty he had raising money during the campaign — was the

source of some of the allegations in the federal indictment against him.

Franklin and Marshall College professor Terry Madonna said the charges against Fattah don't necessarily rule out a successful re-election; it's happened before in the state.

He told Metro on Tuesday that Sims has an uphill battle because Fattah maintains a significant amount of goodwill.

"He's been around a long time and he's done a lot of favors for a lot of people," Madonna said.

BRIEF

Watchdog groups seek records for Philly elections commish

Four government watchdog groups say they want to know what, exactly, City Commissioner Anthony Clark does to earn his $130,000 annual salary.

The groups, Philadelphia 3.0, The Committee of Seventy, Philly Set Go and the 5th Square PAC, announced Tuesday they filed a right-to-know request seeking Clark's communication with staff, attendance records and day-to-day activities.

Clark, who sits on the three-person commission that oversees city elections, has been the subject of significant criticism in recent months over work habits, and Philadelphia City Paper reported in October 2014 that Clark hadn't voted since 2011.

"He doesn't seem to show up at the office or the polls," said Committee of Seventy President David Thornburgh.

Clark, according to the city commission staffers, was not in the office to respond to the group's allegations.

Fred Voigt, the city commission's right-to-know officer, said the office will respond to the request for records in the ordinary course of business.

DAN KELLEY

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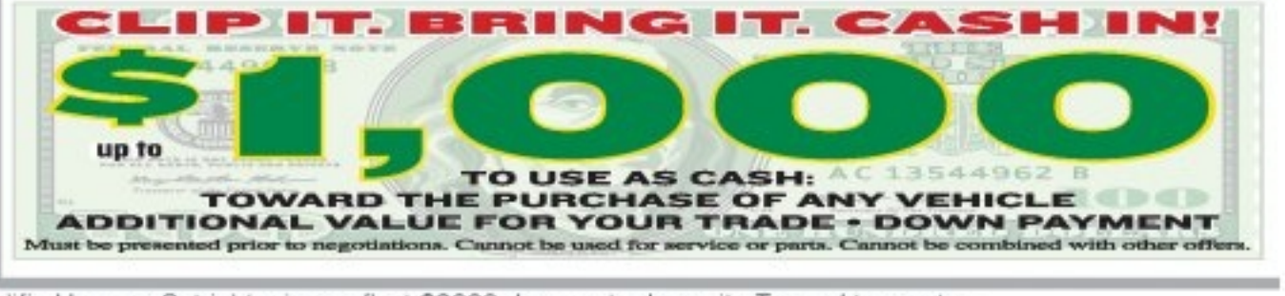
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Ex-U.N. General Assembly president charged in US corruption scheme

U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara, who announced the arrests of Ashe and others, said the investigation could result in more charges.

U.S. authorities charged a former president of the United Nations General Assembly, a billionaire Macau real estate developer and four others on Tuesday with engaging in a wide-ranging corruption scheme.

John Ashe, a former U.N. ambassador from Antigua and Barbuda who was general assembly president from 2013 to 2014, was accused in a complaint filed in federal court in New York of taking more than $1.3 million in bribes from Chinese businessmen, including developer Ng Lap Seng.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is "shocked and deeply troubled" by the allegations, said his spokesman, Stephane Dujarric. The U.N. had not previously been informed of the probe, Dujarric said, but would cooperate if contacted.

The case followed the Sept. 19 arrest of Ng, 68, and an assistant, Jeff Yin, 29, for falsely claiming that $4.5 million they brought into the United States from China from 2013 to 2015 was meant for gambling or buying art, antiques or real estate.

Both men are charged in the latest case. Bharara said authorities continue to examine the funds connected to Ng, who prosecutors say has a $1.8 billion fortune, much of which he earned on developments in Macau.

"If proven, today's charges will confirm that the cancer of corruption that plagues too many local and state governments infects the United Nations as well." Bharara

According to the complaint, Ng, through intermediaries, paid Ashe more than $500,000 for telling the U.N. secretary general that a yet-to-be built multibillion-dollar U.N.-sponsored conference center in Macau was needed.

The intermediaries included Francis Lorenzo, 48, a deputy U.N. ambassador from the Dominican Republic, and Yin, who told authorities that Ng viewed the conference center as his legacy and made payments to get U.N. action on it, the complaint said.

Ashe, 61, also received more than $800,000 from Chinese businessmen to support their interests within the U.N. and Antigua, and kicked some of the money to Antigua's then-prime minister, the complaint said.

The complaint said those bribes were arranged through Shiwei Yan, also known as Sheri Yan, chief executive officer of a New York-based nonprofit, and Heidi Hong Piao, also known as Heidi Park, its finance director.

REUTERS

Preet Bharara, U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York, speaks at a news conference where it was announced that a former president of the United Nations General Assembly was arrested. GETTY IMAGES

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Top US general calls Afghan hospital strike a mistake made within US command chain

The deadly airstrike that hit a hospital in the Afghan city of Kunduz was a mistake made within the U.S. chain of command, the American commander of international forces in Afghanistan said on Tuesday.

Army General John Campbell also made clear he favored a rethink of a plan to withdraw almost all U.S. troops by the end of next year. He said rising threats in Afghanistan from the Islamic State and al Qaeda were among factors informing his recommendations to the White House on future troop levels.

Saturday's strike on an Afghan hospital run by Doctors Without Borders, or Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), killed 22 people and deeply angered the medical charity. MSF officials have blamed the United States, demanding an independent investigation into the incident and calling it a war crime.

General John Campbell GETTY IMAGES

Campbell said U.S. forces had responded to a request from Afghan forces and provided close air support as they engaged in a fight with Taliban militants in Kunduz, a provincial capital that the Taliban captured late last month.

"To be clear, the decision to provide aerial fires was a U.S. decision made within the U.S. chain of command," Campbell said in testimony to the Senate Armed Services Committee. He added that U.S. special forces nearby were communicating with the aircraft that delivered the strikes.

Campbell's comments were the most direct acknowledgement yet by the U.S. government that the strike on the hospital was carried out by U.S. forces. In a statement on Monday, Campbell said only that U.S. forces had responded to a request for support from Afghan forces.

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What playing Monopoly can teach you about your finances

Many real-life personal-finance lessons can be learned from Monopoly, the classic money-loving board game, which turned 80 this year. A few experts weigh in.

One of the best Monopoly players in the world is Brian Valentine, 30, an 8th-grade teacher from Washington, D.C. Valentine represented the U.S. at the World Monopoly Championships in Macau, placing third. Here, he reveals some real-life tips he's gleaned from playing Monopoly.

It's all about location, location, location

Not all properties are created equal, as every buyer needs to know. In Monopoly, some get landed on much more than others — Illinois Avenue and B&O Railroad most of all, according to the game's maker, Hasbro.

But some that are popular with regular players are overvalued, according to Valentine. In particular, he shies away from the yellows (Marvin Gardens, Ventnor Ave. and Atlantic Ave.), greens (Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Pacific Aves.) and dark blues (Park Place and Boardwalk). The bottom line: Know your game in whichever market you are playing.

Relationships matter

Even though there is now a mobile app, Monopoly is traditionally a face-to-face game. That means how you interact with people is going to affect the outcome. "You can have lots of money and properties, but a lot of the game comes down to human interaction and your ability to make deals with people," says Mary Pilon, author of the book "The Monopolists" about the origins and history of the game.

Do not stretch yourself too thin

Of course you want to collect multiple properties. But if you overspend and do not keep enough of a cash cushion in reserve, then you could go bust by landing on someone else's property. "While I was writing the book I was also buying an apartment, so the Monopoly themes got really meta," says Pilon. "I never buy more house than I can afford, in the game or in real life. It makes me nervous just thinking about it."

Read your opponents

Just as in poker, the game is often not about the cards you are holding, but about the person holding those cards. Valentine, for instance, made a concerted effort to get to know the people he was playing against at the World Championships, to gain insight and generate goodwill.

A corollary of that: "Don't underestimate people by how they look," says Pilon. "I have a grandmother in her late 80s — tiny, church-going, harmless — who is an absolute killer at the Monopoly table. She turns into somebody else."

Never discount luck

As any successful person will tell you, luck plays a role in getting to the top. Same thing with Monopoly. "At the end of the day, it is still a game of dice," says Valentine. "No matter how strategic you are, you still don't really know how the game is going to turn out."

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Rihanna is Team Rachel Dolezal

Quick! Rihanna! Say something outrageous! The pop star is never one to disappoint when it comes to outlandish or attention-grabbing utterances, and her thoughts on disgraced former NAACP chapter president Rachel Dolezal, who made headlines for being outed as pretending to be African-American. "I think she was a bit of a hero, because she kind of flipped on society a little bit," Rihanna tells Vanity Fair. "Is it such a horrible thing that she pretended to be black? Black is a great thing, and I think she legit changed people's perspective a bit and woke people up." Big questions, definitely. And Dolezal did in fact wake people up in one respect or another. But, I don't know, "legit" is kind of a funny word to use in this situation.

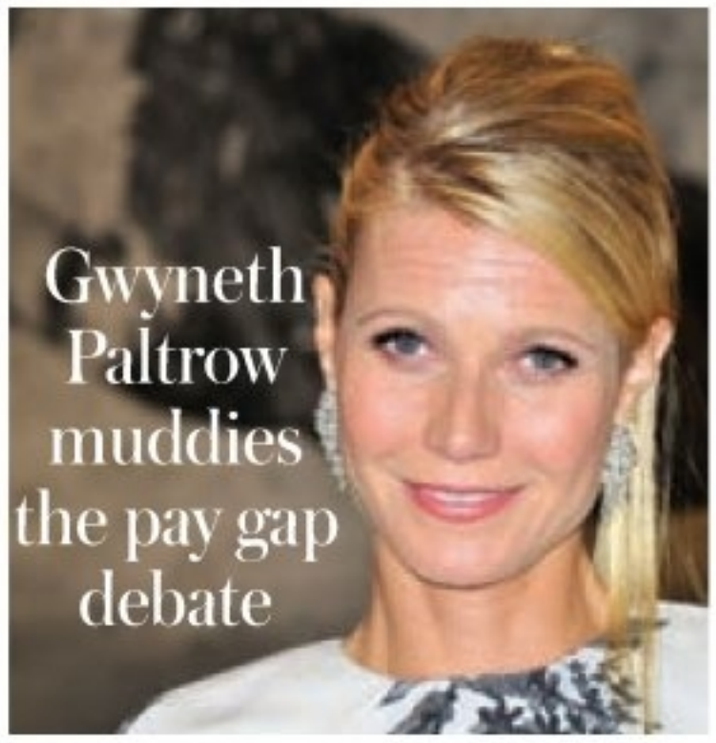
ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Stephenie Meyer has even more 'Twilight' for you

How many times can "Twilight" author Stephenie Meyer go back to the well that first brought her fortune and fame? We may never know the limit, since Meyer has found yet another way to get her fans to shell out some dough on the terrible, terrible vampire love story. To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the first book, Meyer is introducing "Life and Death: Twilight Reimagined," which features the same story retold with the genders reversed. Instead of Bella you have Beau, and instead of vampire Edward you have … Edythe. No really, that's the name.

I guess she really needed to do something with herself after that whole "The Host" thing didn't really pan out.

Gwyneth Paltrow muddies the pay gap debate



Leave it to Gwyneth Paltrow to wade into the debate over Hollywood pay disparity and totally fumble it. "If men are being paid a lot more for doing the same thing, it feels s—ty," she tells Variety. Which is fine, but then she illustrates her point using "Iron Man" co-star Robert Downey Jr., who is not only the linchpin of the Marvel Cinematic Universe but is also the guy playing, you know, Iron Man. "If I told you the disparity, you would probably be surprised." Probably not, actually. Tell me about the disparity between her and Don Cheadle for "Iron Man 3," and then maybe we've got a conversation.

the word

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My 2016 resolutions: learn to communicate better, keep my stomach flat, wear my Invisalign, stop buying books and read all the ones I have.

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Michael Shannon: Ignore Trump

Michael Shannon helps bring a piece of gay marriage history to life in "Freeheld."

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"Freeheld" features Michael Shannon alongside Julianne Moore and Ellen Page telling the true story of detective Laurel Hester (Moore), who fought to get her police pension awarded to her partner, Stacie Andree (Page) in New Jersey in 2005 after she was diagnosed with terminal cancer. Shannon, who plays her supportive work partner, has a personal connection to the story that made the fight for marriage equality a no-brainer.

Shannon as Dane Wells in "Freeheld." PHIL CARUSO

It's interesting to think how this battle has evolved since 2005.

It's such a simple thing, such a simple plea for decency and human respect. Laurel devoted a huge portion of her life to protecting and taking care of her community, and she just wanted the same for herself. I don't know — I don't see how people can be unmoved.

Has the recent Supreme Court decision changed your view on the story?

Yeah, but there's still a stigma. And there's still dissent. There's still people that want to act like the Supreme Court was wrong. Like in my glorious home state of Kentucky. It never stops being topical, but there's definitely a momentum. It seems like we're real close to getting over it. Because it's silly. It's silly that so much pain and angst comes out of how people choose to love one another. I can understand being mad at somebody because they hurt somebody or they disregard other people's experience or whatever, but to have an issue with somebody because of how they choose to love is really perplexing to me. My oldest sister is gay, and she's married and they've adopted a couple of kids, and they're just a beautiful family. It's never bothered me in the slightest. She's my sister.

Some would say it's disregarding others' experience.

I mean, it's bizarre because, honestly, there are people that are tremendously afflicted in straight relationships. The capacity or ability for people to suffer is probably even more prevalent in a neo-fundamentalist Christian 50-year marriage than it is in any other sort of human relationship.

Do dissenters get more vocal as they flame out?

The number is getting smaller, the number of … I want to say idiots. It's shrinking. That's American culture, creating the drama. It's the same thing with Trump. The media is playing right into his hands. He says controversial things and then you pump it up, make it a story, and the next thing you know, the guy's president. Just ignore him. Don't give him a platform. It's like putting a plant in a pot of soil. You should be yanking it out, throwing it on the sidewalk.

GETTY IMAGES

Bonus question

How much does playing a real person impact your performance?

It was huge to meet Dane — and yet the second I met Dane, I realized there was no way in the world I'd be able to be exactly like him. We're completely different, physically. Dane also said in our meeting, "I'm not really concerned about you being exactly like me. The point is telling the world about Laurel and Stacie." Dane's a very humble man. He's not looking for attention himself. But it was critical. I can't imagine playing someone and not meeting them — if they're still alive to meet.

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Robert Zemeckis: Still digital after all these years

With "The Walk," a legendary filmmaker embraces the real and the fake.

MATT PRIGGE
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Robert Zemeckis doesn't like talking themes and ideas. What the filmmaker — of "Back to the Future," "Who Framed Roger Rabbit," "Forrest Gump" and now "The Walk" — most likes to talk about is the technical side. He was an early embracer of digital effects and hot new technologies, and even dramas like "Flight" tend to feature extensive use of subtle CGI. "The Walk" is about half real and half CGI, relating the stranger-than-fiction tale of how French acrobat Philippe Petit (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) strolled across a tightrope strung between the Twin Towers, all the way back in 1974.

Could you even make "The Walk" without relying on CGI?

I don't even know how you'd do it at all. I guess you could use miniatures. Back in the old days, you'd use miniatures and process screens. It certainly would have been very limiting.

Some of the CGI in this film is about re-creating things that no longer exist. You create the World Trade Center both from the outside and the inside. In the past, they would just build a set. This seems — well, not cheaper...

Just because it's digital doesn't mean it costs nothing. You have to understand that. People can say things like, "Oh, a microphone dropped into the shot. Screw it, move on. We'll paint it out later." Well, that costs money. Filmmakers have to be careful that they don't get sloppy, figuring they can change everything — which they can. But it costs money.

Originally, you were going to do this as a motion-capture film, right?

I thought of it, yeah. I had this idea that I would have the real Philippe do the walk, because he would do it exactly how he did it. I would build an avatar of his body and make him younger. Then I realized it's probably better just to do it as a live-action movie with all these digital enhancements.

This is another of your 3-D movies, but it's different from, say, "The Polar Express" or "Beowulf" because, apart from the walk itself, most of it is a drama.

3-D is a format and a tool, but it always needs to be organic to the story you're telling. 3-D is cool if it's enhancing the experience. If you had a movie like, say, one that takes place on a roller coaster — like a runaway roller coaster that never stops, and there's some crazy drama that's going on — that would be a cool movie to do in 3-D. If that same drama took place in a closet, and that was the whole point of the story, 3-D would probably not enhance the experience. I don't think "My Dinner With Andre" would be a great movie in 3-D. That's a call you make. You have to ask yourself, "Is this going to work? Is that camera panning too much? Is it moving too fast?" A movie like "Flight," I would never think of making it in 3-D. It doesn't belong in 3-D.

Joseph Gordon-Levitt, seen from behind, plays Philippe Petit, the man who tightrope walked the Twin Towers in 1974, in Robert Zemeckis' "The Walk," now playing in IMAX theaters. SONY

Though the opening crash could have been a neat 3-D experience.

But the crash, 50 percent of the images are just close-ups of instruments on an instrument panel. It's just cutting to warning lights and stuff.

Bringing back the World Trade Center

Robert Zemeckis
GETTY IMAGES

Right after the September 11 attacks, there was a movement to ignore the Towers. But in "The Walk," showing them no longer feels like an affront.

I don't know why they would have removed the World Trade Center because that becomes a historical document, which is vital and important. That's the way I approached this. The movie took place in 1974; the Twin Towers were there. The memory of the World Trade towers is very tragic, but there are also things that happened there that are beautiful, like what Philippe did. So it's like anything that doesn't exist anymore. You can't only remember it for the dark things. You have to remember it for everything.

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'The Duke of Burgundy' is a sex film with no sex

New on Netflix

MATT PRIGGE
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matt.prigge@metro.us

'THE DUKE OF BURGUNDY'

Sidse Babett Knudsen and Chiara D'Anna play lovers with a secret, lounging about in picturesque locales in "The Duke of Burgundy." IFC FILMS

'SOME CAME RUNNING'

The 1958 drama "Some Came Running" isn't your usual Frank Sinatra-Dean Martin movie. PROVIDED

'2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY'

Keir Dullea does not quite steal Stanley Kubrick's "2001: A Space Odyssey." MGM

Imagine (if you can) an elaborate, loving homage to '70s Eurotrash erotica like "Emmanuelle." Now imagine it without the good stuff, which is to say the sex and skin. And now imagine it not as a portrait of frivolous, quickie love-making but as the opposite: a quietly devastating study of the difficulties of long-term relationships. The impossibly lush and hypnotic "The Duke of Burgundy" is all this and more — a handsome fever dream that follows two women in love but who have a strange secret about why they're knocking bedposts. Even ignoring the why, "Burgundy" is still rapturous, lousy with lulling soft-focus photography, ornate furniture and roughly a gazillion shots of lovingly taxidermied insects.

Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin made plenty of bro-ish films together, but this slow-burning Vincente Minnelli drama stands outside them all. Sinatra is a vet who returns to his hometown, where his many contradictory impulses get a working out. He falls for a nice school teacher (Martha Hyer), but he also can't resist hanging with Martin's gambler or spending time with the dim-witted floozy heartbreakingly played by Shirley MacLaine. This is all building to a phantasmagoric closer, but the pleasure is in the gradual build, made all the more magnetic by Minnelli's careful, galvanizing CinemaScope frames.

You know what you shouldn't do? Watch this pioneering eyesore on anything less than a giant screen in 70mm, the way God (or Stanley Kubrick) intended. You know what you almost certainly can't do, unless you live in a big city, and then only once or so a year? Watch "2001" in 70mm. So long as you block out your windows, kill your gizmos and rev up your biggest screen, feel free to take it in, and marvel not only at its mood but at the way it offers a truly posthuman look at civilization, where the people are often ignored by Kubrick's roaming cameras, partly because they aren't as charismatic as the computer program that's simply an all-seeing, crimson red eye. Just don't watch it on your smartwatch.

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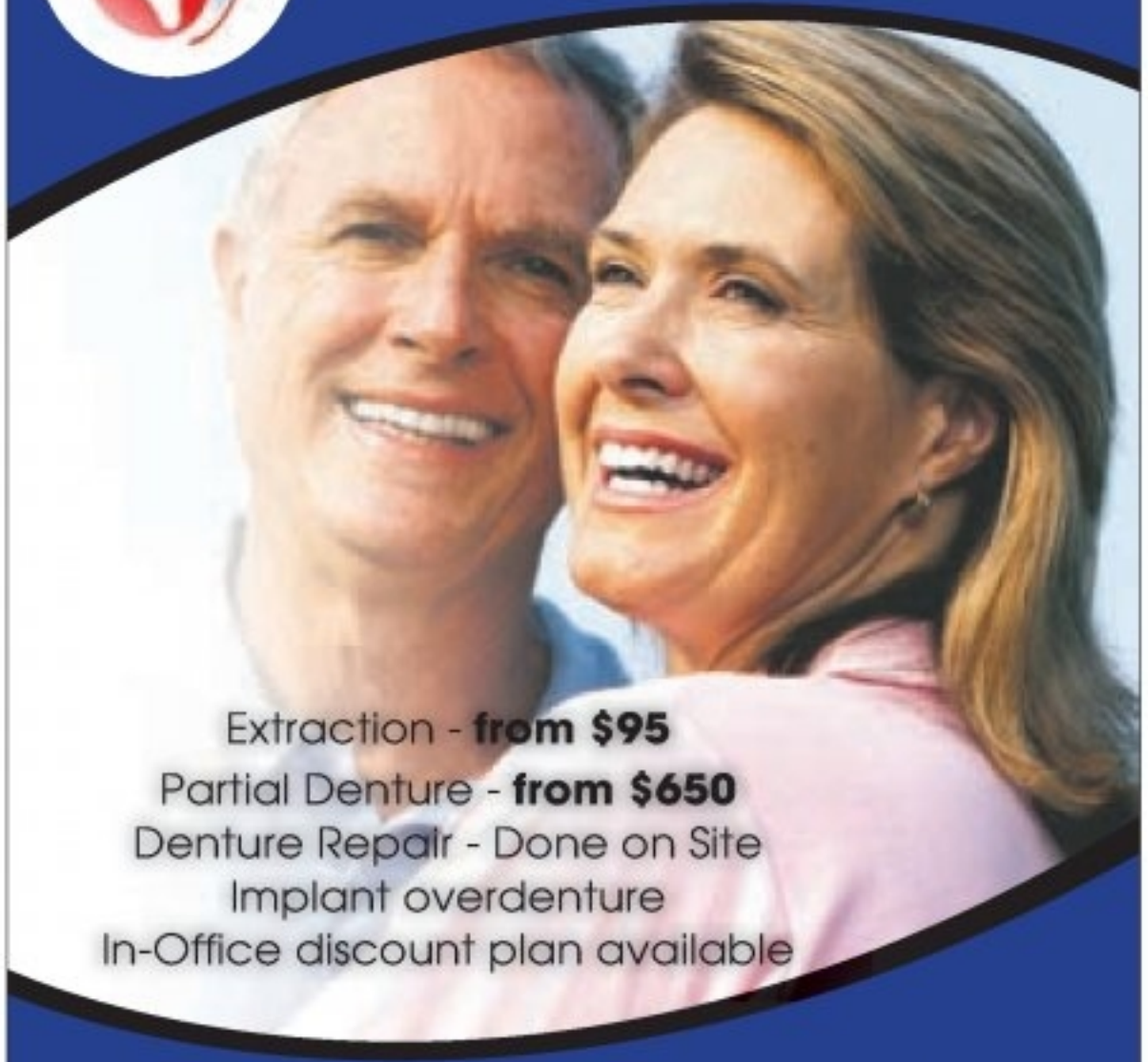

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You can check in, but you can't leave 'AHS'

The latest season of the horror anthology series takes place in an incredibly creepy hotel.

LISA WEIDENFELD
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lisa.weidenfeld@metro.us

"American Horror Story: Hotel" premieres tonight at 10 p.m. on FX. SUZANNE TENNER

"American Horror Story" is about to get all "The Shining" on us. After the show visited an asylum, a traveling carnival and a witches' coven, the latest installment will take place in an old, probably haunted hotel in Los Angeles.

True to creator Ryan Murphy's M.O., there will be familiar faces showing up, such as Sarah Paulson and Kathy Bates. But there are also new ones, including Lady Gaga as the blood-sucking proprietor of the hotel and Wes Bentley, best known for "The Hunger Games" and "American Beauty," as the poor detective tasked with solving the mystery. We talked with Bentley — as well as a few other Murphy regulars — about what to expect from this season.

You get to investigate what's going on with the hotel, right?
Yeah, it's a series of grisly murders I've tracked down, which leads me to the hotel to try to check in there — also, because of other issues at home.

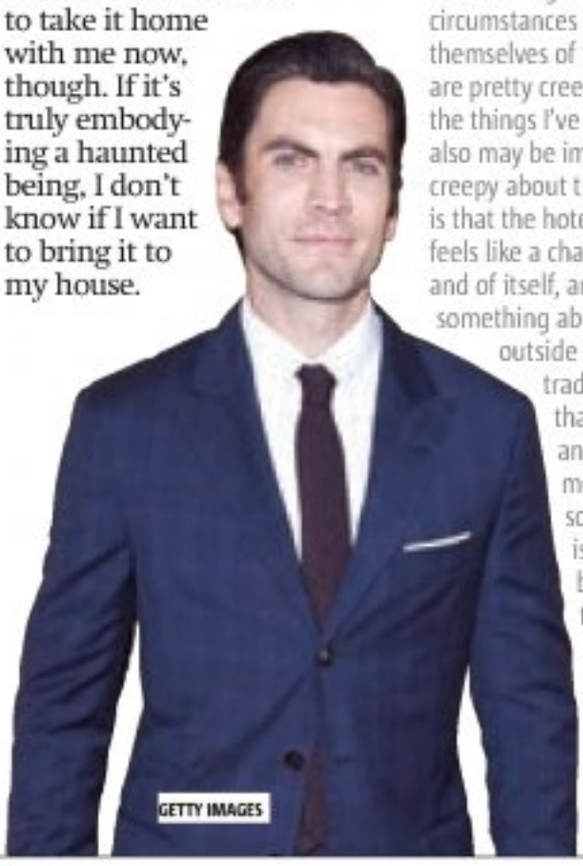
Never a happy marriage on "AHS," right?
No, that would be too easy.

Does Ryan Murphy leave you in the dark about upcoming plot points?
Yeah, and I don't mind being in the dark. I mean, big backstory stuff I do know. There was a loss [in Bentley's character's family] and a few other things that I'm not going to say. But as far as what comes in the future, I'm not sure I want to know until it comes up. I think it's more fun to play.

You want to be freaked out, just the same as the audience.
I do. I read the first two [episodes] and I had nightmares because I read them at night. And after I've been shooting, it's been affecting my dreams as well. I'm not a nightmare guy, so [the episodes] are quite scary and psychologically terrifying, which for me is what draws me to horror.

When you're on the hotel set, how much does it feel like an actual hotel?
Oh, it feels exactly like a hotel. When I walked into that lobby, [I thought] it's huge, it's beautiful, it's Art Deco, it's got a very L.A. feeling to it, very expensive. When I'm there, I don't feel like I'm anywhere else.

Will you take anything home from the hotel?
I'm going to work on it. I don't know if I want to take it home with me now, though. If it's truly embodying a haunted being, I don't know if I want to bring it to my house.



GETTY IMAGES

Checking in with Denis O'Hare

What's the creepiest part of the hotel?
The basement.

Naturally.
Bar none. And you know, the elevator is tricky.

Uh-oh. Are people going to get trapped in there?
People might get on one floor and might [never get off]. But in general, the basement.

Checking in with Matt Bomer

What kinds of creepy stuff will you be getting up to this season?
I think the given circumstances in and of themselves of the character are pretty creepy. One of the things I've found that also may be implicitly creepy about this season is that the hotel really feels like a character in and of itself, and there is something about being outside of your traditional home that creates an environment that in some ways is dictated by others. I think that I always find that creepy when I'm staying in other places.

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A (meth)od to his madness

Miles Allen's viral YouTube impressions of "Breaking Bad" led to an internationally touring parody show.

CHRIS JORDANS
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

'One Man Breaking Bad: The Unauthorized Parody'

Wednesday, 8 p.m.
World Cafe Live
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Worldcafelive.com

Miles Allen stars in "One Man Breaking Bad," at World Cafe Live tonight. JAY HYNES

Just how did Miles Allen's "One Man Breaking Bad: The Unauthorized Parody" become a hit in Australia when AMC doesn't broadcast there?

"They illegally downloaded it," Allen says. "That's the only way they could watch it."

We have it a bit easier here in the States, where "Breaking Bad" is available on Netflix and "One Man Breaking Bad" comes to World Cafe Live tonight. Allen promises 60 episodes in 60 minutes, thanks to his impressions of the "Breaking Bad" gang — everyone from Walter to Walt Jr.

On the off chance anyone doesn't already know, "our protagonist starts out as a meek and mild high school teacher and he devolves into a druglord with an empire created out of the purest meth," Allen says. "He's fueled by the thought that he's the best at what he does and finally people will see that.

"[It] started out a dark comedy and then digressed into a tragedy," Allen continues, "with comic relief moments and very likable and interesting characters along the way. It lends itself to a one-man show."

Allen has an eye for detail.

"Walt Jr. is always eating breakfast, Jesse's always saying the word 'b—,' Saul Goodman was peculiar — there are a lot of quirky characters."

And portraying all of them in performances around the world is hard work.

"I have to protect my voice," he says. "I'm on stage for an hour, sometimes 80 minutes, depending on the version. It's just me. … The old pipes are a muscle that I have to protect." He's not talking about meth pipes.

Allen is a native of Illinois who turned to comedy and impressions as a way of dealing with childhood bullying. He moved to Los Angeles and a YouTube of his "Breaking Bad" impressions, performed by Allen as a homeless man, went viral.

He created the one-man show and took it to an Australian comedy fest, which led to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and parts beyond.

"I didn't travel before this, I didn't have any desire to go all these different places, but this is awesome," Allen says. "It's been an amazing experience this past year. I've learned so much, traveled — and I'm getting paid to do it."

Call it Breaking Good.

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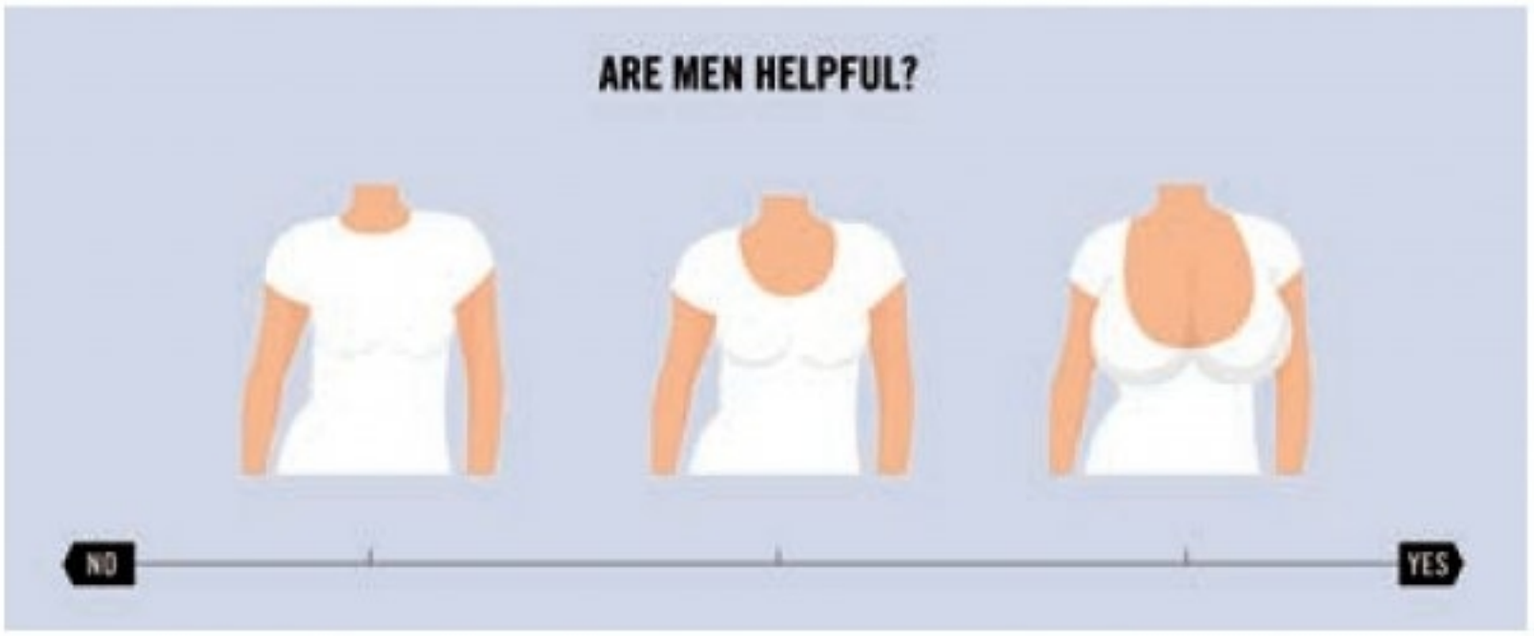

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Aries Your creative energy is riding a crest. No matter what you decide to do, you will get positive results. Rewards will follow.

Taurus Before tackling something new, take care of your responsibilities. In order to avoid tension, live up to your promises.

Gemini With your people skills, you will come out ahead of the competition. You know just what to say to persuade others to join you.

Cancer A trip down memory lane will have an influence on you. If you reconsider previous goals, you will be able to pick up where you left off.

Leo Don't let your talents go to waste. There is bound to be a community event that will benefit from your experience and input.

Virgo Don't get involved in a dispute. If you control your emotions and listen to advice, you will discover what you need to do.

Libra Reconnect with old friends. Time spent with people who have headed in a different direction will provide food for thought.

Scorpio Unnecessary arguing will hinder you from taking care of your responsibilities. Don't get involved in someone else's affairs.

Sagittarius Your charm is highlighted. Take part in as many social events as possible in order to get the opportunity to promote your plans.

Capricorn Don't overspend when trying to help others. Sticking to a strict budget will help you ease stress. Offer your advice and emotional support.

Aquarius Keeping cool and collected will help your day run smoothly. Even if you face opposition, your diplomatic attitude will force others to bend.

Pisces Securing your future will take work. Do whatever is necessary, even if it means forgoing a social event.

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easy

8					9	2	4	
	4	9	2		1	3	6	
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hard

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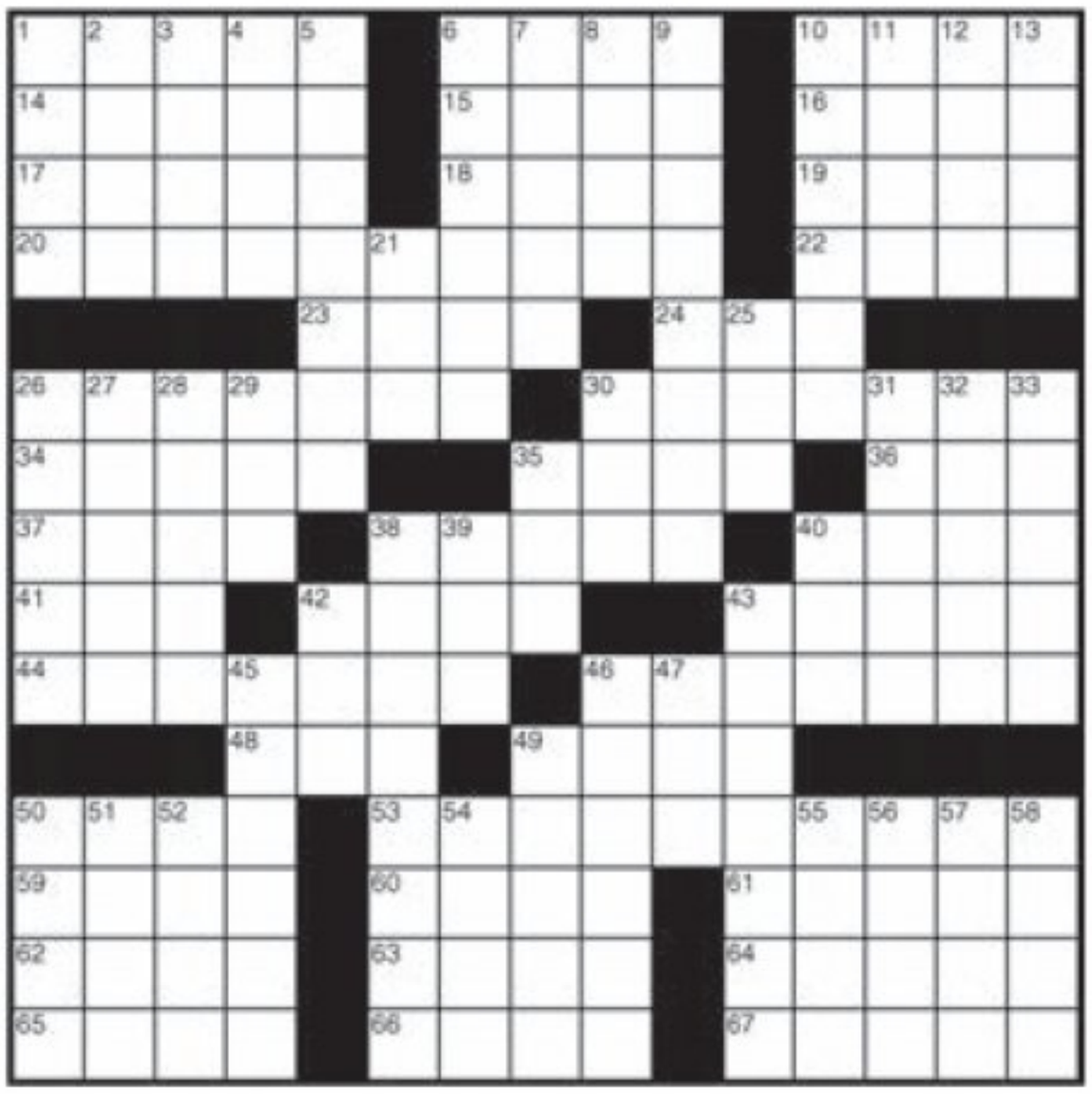

Across

1 Joins up in space
6 Take suddenly
10 White-hat wearer
14 Bubbling
15 Bowling alley
16 Saki grain
17 Broom — (comics witch)
18 Part of IBM
19 Tooth problem
20 Graphite gadget (2 wds.)
22 Boxing wins
23 Storm track
24 Clod buster
26 Ornamental bands
30 Prepared peanuts
34 Teased
35 Dr.'s visit
36 Stein filler
37 Run in neutral
38 Fizzes
40 Plaid wearers
41 Crumpet companion
42 Name in essays
43 Whiskey amounts
44 Incoming train
46 Early show
48 Skip stones
49 Qatar's capital
50 Leery
53 Dangerous habit
59 Indigo plant
60 That's — —know!
61 "The — Sanction"
62 Saw or drill
63 James of "Rollerball"
64 Mall tenant
65 Trims a doily
66 Elvis' title
67 Light blanket

Down

1 Wonka's creator
2 Drama award
3 Burger mate
4 Notorious pirate
5 Cuffed
6 Flashes
7 Bunkhouse site
8 Not pro
9 Hotel staffers
10 Egg protectors
11 Bumpkin
12 Narcissus' lover
13 Membership dues
21 Pack it away
25 Feedbag bit
26 Tums target
27 Less courteous
28 Balloon material
29 Tommy — Jones
30 LP speed
31 Eagle claw
32 Overjoy
33 No rocket scientist
35 Rte. mappers
38 Stack component
39 Wildcat strike
40 T'ai — ch'uan
42 NASA excursion
43 Mustiest
45 Shipboard romances
46 Lawn chore
47 Just as I thought!
49 "Hurricane" singer
50 Light-bulb unit
51 Dwarf buffalo
52 Laugh-a-minute
54 Jai —
55 Kin's partner
56 Mr. Sikorsky
57 Orchid-loving Wolfe
58 Waxed

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ALL PHOTOS ISTOCK

8 weekend home projects

Investing in a shoe shelf gets rid of that pile-of-shoes-by-the-door problem.

Whether you have an hour or a day, there's always room for improvement.

MONICA WEYMOUTH
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

It's understandable to sweep some home projects under the rug. Painting is daunting, organizing the basement is worse and pretty much anything involving the roof costs twice as much as you're prepared to shell out. That said, there are plenty of small improvements and minor undertakings that you — yes, you, ye of little faith and fewer tools — could easily knock out this weekend.

1 Organize the entryway

You know that pile of boots, umbrellas and unopened mail next to the front door? It doesn't have to be that way. A shoe rack, shelf and a couple of stylish hooks are all that's separating you from the good life.

2 Makeover that Ikea bookcase

No judging here: Most people have a cheapie bookcase. But a quick coat of paint transforms this dorm room staple, while a wallpaper background makes it look positively chic.

3 About those window treatments …

Level 1: Wash your curtains, and try not to be grossed out by what a difference this makes. **Level 2:** Buy new curtains already. **Level 3:** Upgrade your hardware and prepare to be amazed.

4 Install dimmers

For around $30 and 30 minutes, you'll have a more attractive lighting scheme and a lower energy bill. Win and win.

5 Replace switchplates

Switchplates are a no-win business — a good one is almost invisible, and an ugly one is impossible to ignore. Do your wall a favor and replace those cracked, dated plates already.

6 Retake the floor

A new rug can change the feel of a room for a fraction of the cost of new furniture. Don't be shy — it's the perfect opportunity to try something different without worrying about a long-term investment.

7 Update cabinet hardware

Plenty of good things came out of the '80s, but kitchen cabinets aren't one of them. If a remodel isn't in the budget, try swapping the hardware. Sometimes a little brushed brass goes a long way.

8 Replace your showerhead

The only thing standing between you and a rainfall shower is $60 and a trip to Home Depot. Go forth and luxuriate.

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Going modern in Old City

Designers shopped local to create a neighborhood showcase.

MADELINE PRESLAND
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Old City Fest

Sunday, noon to 6 p.m.
Oldcitydistrict.org
Throughout Old City; Vendors and performers will concentrate along Third Street between Market and Race, and Arch Street between Second and Fourth.

Old City Fest will feature food and drink, shopping, demonstrations, street performances, live music, a fashion show and a family fun zone. CI DAWSON

Retro design comes back, appropriately, in the historic section of Philadelphia this Sunday at Old City Fest. Interior design firm Marguerite Rodgers is transforming the Center for Art in Wood (141 N. Third St.) into mock living spaces — think a really cool Ikea — using art, furniture and accessories from the neighborhood's many boutiques.

"We want to tell a story," says Marco Angelucci, design director for Marguerite Rodgers. "We decided to make up a client: We envisioned two artists who live together and work together, in the same space. We're going back to that idea of things that were crafted and made by hand."

Angelucci and his team went shopping for those handmade goods in Old City's galleries and shops, including Mode Moderne. Owner Michael Glatfelter says the designers picked up several pieces from his vintage furniture store. "There's a pair of really hi-tech 1950s operating room lamps," he describes. "There's a Vargas pinup girl lamp and clock combination — that's fun. Six Vargas girl decals, a pair of spoked wooden magazine racks by Arthur Umanoff and a large ceramic Italian lamp."

But like the rest of us, Glatfelter is waiting to see what it will all look like in the design showcase, which will stay open after the fest through Oct. 16. "Until I see it, I have no idea," he says. "It's a mystery — a welcome one — to see how they'll put this all together."

"There are ways to pull art and objects together that you may not think about. Different styles can work together. It's about finding a common thread." Angelucci

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Gregory Fulton Room# 106, Martaya Fortune Room# 123, Nicole Jowers Room# 171, Shakefia Larke Room# 180, Tanisha Hodges Room# 191, Chelsea Middleton Room# 194A, Nora Williams- Jones Room# 306, Gwen Campbell Room# 312, Bethaney Cooley Room# 314, Rhonda Peck Room# 319, Thanashia Leith Room# 340, Marcus Smith Room# 342, Vincent Burwell Room# L212, Renee Fraizer Room# L223, Karina Banks Room# L225,

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Is Eagles defense getting worn down, tired by sluggish offense?

Zach Ertz thinks so, but Brandon Graham says anyone who is tired after four games doesn't belong in the NFL.

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Brandon Graham and the Eagles' defense, surprisingly, have allowed the 12th-fewest points per game in 2015. GETTY IMAGES

Was the Eagles defense tired Sunday in Philly's bitter defeat to the Redskins?

They did stay on the field for more than 41 minutes, the last six coming during a 90-yard touchdown march to give Kirk Cousins and Washington the comeback 23-20 win.

And they did defend 79 plays.

"We have to be more consistent," tight end Zach Ertz said. "We can't keep putting our defense on the field for that many plays and expect them to not be tired at the end of the game. We have to do better at getting open in the passing game and blocking in the running game."

But this sort of comes with the territory when playing defense for Chip Kelly. The Eagles notoriously run a no-huddle, fast-paced offense — and they run it in practice too.

The Eagles get a ton of reps on defense and have been pretty solid considering the situations they have been put into during the first four games of the season, and considering the huge setbacks they have suffered on the injury front (with Mychal Kendricks, Byron Maxwell, Jason Peters and others leaving the Redskins game alone).

> *"We know the ball will start bouncing our way — we see the light at the end of the tunnel. We have that hope."*
> Brandon Graham

Brandon Graham says being tired is not an option.

"For us, we are four games in," the linebacker said. "If you're still getting tired you need to condition more. We want that situation. If we can do it all over again, a lot of guys would do a lot of things differently, but the Redskins came to play and did a lot of good things on that drive. It's a game of inches."

For all their faults and as ugly as things have looked at times on both sides of the ball, the Eagles could easily be 3-1 without much more proficiency. If they can get it together, with the 1-3 Saints coming to town and a weak schedule for the next six weeks, things could get back on track.

Or if you ask Graham (or anyone else on the Eagles defense), things will get back on track.

"We keep getting better each week, as a team and as a unit," Graham said. "We are going to shock a lot of people."

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NFL power rankings | by Luke Miller

No. 1

Patriots (3-0)

A rested Patriots team will now travel to Dallas to face a decimated Cowboys team that has nonetheless showed fight the last two weeks against Atlanta and New Orleans. That being said, an upset against New England is still unlikely.

No. 2

Packers (4-0)

It was another cold, efficient dispatching of an opponent by the Packers. And sure, the Niners are nothing to write home about, but they and Colin Kaepernick have significantly troubled Green Bay in the past, dating back to blowing past them in the NFC Championship game. Not so this year.

No. 3

Bengals (4-0)

The Bengals are building a more and more impressive résumé and more and more space between themselves and the Steelers in the AFC North. Andy Dalton, who had thrown 37 interceptions over the past two seasons, now has just one through four games.

No. 4

Broncos (4-0)

Denver is still undefeated, but the Peyton Manning question appears to be an open ended one, and results will vary from week to week. Unlike the last Denver team we saw make the Super Bowl though, this one is led by its defense, and their results haven't varied.

No. 5

Cardinals (3-1)

Count this the first dent in the armor for a team that had looked unstoppable. It's tough to lose the turnover battle 3-0 and win a game, but the Cardinals almost pulled it off. Larry Fitzgerald is re-emerging as a game-changing wideout. He leads the NFL with five TD and is third with 432 yards.

No. 6

Falcons (4-0)

Are the Falcons for real? After a game where they took a 42-0 lead on Houston, it seems they might be. This week, they even did it without needing Julio Jones' unstoppable demigod impersonation at wide receiver. They have a good chance to move to 5-0 with the Redskins next up.

No. 7

Panthers (4-0)

The Panthers get a big test in two weeks in Seattle following their bye in Week 5. If they can drop a so-so Seahawks team, it'll go a long way to reinforcing that it doesn't matter how this team wins, as long as it wins. It will be their first true test amid an easy schedule to start.

No. 8

Rams (2-2)

If St. Louis could play their division every week they'd be golden. This is their second impressive victory in a very young season (led by Nick Foles and his three touchdowns), but it doesn't reconcile with the team that got beat up by the Redskins. Who are they?

No. 9

Seahawks (2-2)

Seattle got two gifts this weekend that kept its season alive: one from the Rams, and one from the refs. Now Kam Chancellor is back and they're just one game behind the Cardinals in the NFC West. The struggling run game will be helped if Marshawn Lynch returns Sunday.

No. 10

Bills (2-2)

Their 17 penalties for 135 yards will tell you a lot about what happened in New York Sunday in their loss to the Giants. The Bills' run game struggled without LeSean McCoy, and that better get fixed, because chances are they're going to be without him for a while.

No. 23

Eagles (1-3)

The Eagles started the season with a bad offensive line and now that offensive line is falling apart at the seams due to injuries. DeMarco Murray became the first voice of discontent in Philadelphia; it's hard to imagine this is what he envisioned leaving Dallas.

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Phillies report card: Pitching fails big time

There are a few positives sprinkled in the ugly mess that was the Phillies just-completed season.

ED CONDRAN
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The Phillies officially bottomed out at the All-Star break. It was so bad that the Phillies lost as many games at that point as the 2011 squad dropped during that entire regular season.

However, there was some good (rookies Maikel Franco and Aaron Nola) and there was the bad (Domonic Brown) and of course, the ugly (the pitching, Jeff Francoeur's extended outing as a reliever, Ryne Sandberg losing control of the clubhouse, too much to name).

It's a team that has gone from over 100 wins to nearly as many losses in five short seasons, making the 2008 World Championship squad seem like a distant memory.

Metro takes one last look back at the Phillies squad that lost 99 games and gives them some final grades for their efforts in 2015:

D

First base

The Big Piece put up some numbers, 23 homers and 77 RBIs. but his defensive ability has eroded so badly that it's a shame he can't start his career as a DH next season. But a $25 million weight will anchor him in Philly. Ryan Howard struggled against left-handers and what really has hurt him for some time is that the league adapted to him and he never responded, which is a killer since baseball is a game of adjustments. Darin Ruf still has trouble hitting right-handed pitching and driving in runners in scoring position.

B+

Maikel Franco showed he can be a mid-order hitter. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Third base

It was no surprise that the Phillies had a mini-surge after the arrival of Maikel Franco and the team cooled after his wrist was broken in mid-August. Franco is a difference maker, who probably would have been in the Rookie of the Year conversation if he stayed healthy. What was most impressive was Franco's patience at the plate. Franco, a threat every time he steps to the plate, is a huge upgrade over Cody Asche at third base.

C-

Second base

When Cesar Hernandez succeeded the then-injured Chase Utley, he impressed, but it was a small sample set. After Utley was traded, Hernandez slumped and suffered a season ending injury. It'll be curious to see what he does next season. Hernandez showed off some impressive tools (nice bat, good glove and some speed) but was inconsistent.

B-

Shortstop

Who ever thought that Freddy Galvis would hit .263 and knock in 50 runs?

Galvis seized the moment and put up solid offensive numbers in the absence of Jimmy Rollins, who was traded to the Dodgers last offseason. He made some spectacular plays but it was surprising how many routine plays Galvis mishandled. But Galvis was impressive overall.

C-

The bullpen

Many of the relievers took a big step back this season. Justin De Fratus and Jake Diekman, before he was traded to Texas with Hamels, didn't get the job done. Jeanmar Gomez was solid and Ken Giles proved he could close at the big-league level.

Getting rid of Jonathan Papelbon was the biggest improvement. Talk about addition by subtraction.

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A-

Center field

Odubel Herrera had the best year a Rule 5 ever had after being selected by a team that must keep him on the roster for the season or offer him back to his prior team. At the dawn of spring training, a veteran scout told Metro that Herrera was the Phillies leadoff hitter and starting left fielder. He wasn't far off the mark by much.. After skipping Triple-A, Herrera led the Phillies with a .297 average, which was 12th best in the National League. Herrera has some pop and no Phillie has worked pitchers better than Herrera since Jayson Werth. On top of that, Herrera learned to play center field on the fly. A polished young hitter who is a pure ballplayer.

Odubel Herrera was the Phillies' nominee for the Hank Aaron award in 2015.

C-

Aaron Nola

Starting pitchers

Back in early March, the rotation was led by Cole Hamels and Cliff Lee. The last of the four aces are gone. Hamels, who pitched well while he was around this season, was dealt to Texas and Lee didn't throw a pitch due to injury and was bought out. Aaron Nola lived up to the hype and pitched very well for a team in transition. Late in the season, Jerad Eickhoff, who has a great curveball, showed great promise and Adam Morgan did a nice job and looks like a No. 5.

C-

Right field

The Domonic Brown chapter is finally over. Chip Kelly will be fortunate if he has as many chances to fail as Brown, who had no pop this season. Dom-dawg has all the tools but something huge is missing in his makeup. Perhaps a change of scenery will help. Francoeur was a nice comeback story. Frenchy had a solid season, is great in the clubhouse and never stops smiling.

C

Left field

Hats off to Ben Revere, who played a great left field before being dealt north of the border. Revere also hit .298 for the Phillies and has been a good cog in the wheel with the Blue Jays. Asche had two weeks to learn left in the minors. The Phillies former third baseman picked it up and was solid performing in a foreign position. However, Asche just doesn't have the bat to be an everyday leftfielder. Aaron Altherr is ready for a major league starting job.

The speedy Altherr looks like Garry Maddox in the outfield as he casually glides toward fly balls and he looks like a speedier Werth with the bat in his hands. In just 137 at-bats, he had a whopping 20 extra base hits and with his enviable wheels scored 25 runs.

B

The manager

Pete Mackanin didn't inherit a good situation, but he knew that more than anyone. Following the taciturn Sandberg and running a kiddie corp wasn't easy but Mackanin made it look that way. The Phillies play improved dramatically under Mackanin.

"He's one of the good things to happen to us this season," Asche said.

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